

Message Text

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S E C R E T JIDDA 8158

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SA, US
SUBJ: PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO KING KHALID

REF: STATE 306445

1. I WAS ASKED TO CALL TODAY ON CROWN PRINCE FAHD, WHO IS VICEROY IN ABSENCE OF HIS BROTHER, KING KHALID, TO PRESENT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO THE KING. IN INTEREST OF PROMPT DELIVERY, I HAD OFFERED TO SEND IT TO HIM, BUT HE PREFERRED TO HAVE IT PRESENTED BY ME AS SOON AS SCHEDULE COULD BE ARRANGED.

2. WHEN FAHD RECEIVED ME HE EXPLAINED THAT THE KING WAS IN SWITZERLAND FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. HE THEN CALLED INTO AUDIENCE CHAMBER PRINCE ABDULLAH, HIS BROTHER WHO IS NUMBER THREE (AFTER KING AND FAHD) IN HIERARCHY. AFTER ABDULLAH JOINED US I DELIVERED PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE, ADDING ORAL EXCERPTS FROM WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT OF DECEMBER 17 ON OPEC OIL PRICE INCREASE.

3. FAHD REPLIED WITH GRACIOUS STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S MESSAGE AND FOR WH STATEMENT. HE RECALLED HIS STATEMENT TO ME IN EARLY SEPTEMBER CONCERNING KING KHALID'S AVERSION TO RISE IN PRICE OF OIL AND HIS ASSURANCE THEN AND ON NOVEMBER 29 THAT SAG WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID CREATING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES FOR THE UNITED STATES AND FOR
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LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS. HE SAID THAT WHILE KING KHALID IS AWAY FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT HE WAS RECEIVING KING'S GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS AND THAT WE COULD REST ASSURED THAT SAUDI ATTITUDE WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

4. VICEROY DECLARED HE ANTICIPATING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT-

ELECT CARTER AND SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE. THEY WILL HEAR FROM HIM WARM AND TRUTHFUL STATEMENT OF SAUDI FRIENDSHIP AND REGARD FOR THE UNITED STATES. CORDIALITY OF HIS COMMENT WAS UNMISTAKABLE AND IT OBVIOUS HE WAS TAKING OCCASION TO IMPRESS PRINCE ABDULLAH WITH HIS FEELINGS ON THAT SCORE. DISCUSSION WAS LIMITED TO THAT TOPIC IN VIEW HIS CROWDED SCHEDULE.

5. DURING PRINCE FAHD'S STATEMENT, HIS BROTHER ABDULLAH NODDED VEHEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ITS CONTENT. I TOOK OCCASION TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH LATTER DURING NEXT DAY OR SO TO DISCUSS OTHER BUSINESS.
PORTER

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